

EDSON H. CRAWFORD.

FEBRUARY 29, 1904.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. OVERMAN, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 10904.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 10904) granting an increase of pension to Edson H. Crawford, have examined the same and report:

The report of the Committee on Invalid Pensions of the House of Representatives, hereto appended, is adopted and the passage of the bill is recommended.

The House report is as follows:

Edson H. Crawford, now 63 years of age, served as corporal and sergeant in Company C, Sixty-ninth Illinois Infantry, from June 4 to September 27, 1862, when honorably discharged with his company.

He again served as corporal and private in Company L, Seventeenth Illinois Cavalry, from January 4, 1864, to December 20, 1865, when honorably discharged.

He never applied for pension under the general law, but is now pensioned under the act of June 27, 1890, at \$12 per month, for total disability due to rheumatism, piles, and disease of stomach.

When last examined, on November 17, 1897, the board of surgeons at Erie, Kans., described his physical condition as follows:

“Rheumatism: Crepitation in both kneejoints; tender, but not swollen; same of both shoulder joints. Muscles of lumbar region stiff, tense, and tender. Stoops and rises with much difficulty. Tenderness over the left hip and along the course of the left sciatic nerve; pronounced at sciatic notch. Rate, \$12.

“Five external pile tumors; three large ones, each 1½ inches in diameter, inflamed and sensitive; and two small ones, each one-half inch in diameter, not inflamed. Two internal ones each 1 inch in diameter, inflamed, sensitive, bleeding, and ulcerated. Rectum inflamed. There is a stricture of rectum. Rate, \$12.

“Abdomen tender and tympanitic. Liver and spleen congested. Rectum inflamed. Rate, \$10.

“The short saphenous of left leg and its branches are varicosed to the extent of 1 inch in diameter. There is a tendency to rupture. Rate, \$4.”

Medical and other testimony filed in the Pension Bureau in 1898 shows that the soldier was then totally disabled; that a great part of the time he was not able to take care of himself and needed an attendant, and that he suffered from rheumatism so severely that he was compelled to use crutches or a cane the most part of the time.

The affidavit of the beneficiary, filed with your committee, sets forth that he never goes away from home without some person to look after him; that the pension which

he is now drawing is not sufficient to pay for medicine, and that his wife has to go out and do needlework and cooking to help to make a living.

The affidavit of C. L. Steele, of Muscogee, Ind. T., also filed with your committee, sets forth that the beneficiary is now in a very critical condition, and that the same has at times caused him to be absolutely unable to move about without assistance, and that affiant himself has rendered such assistance a good many times in helping him up stairs and to his home; that he is also acquainted with his financial condition and knows that his income from all sources is absolutely insufficient for his support.

An increase of this soldier's pension to \$24 per month seems just and proper in view of his well-nigh helplessness and destitution.

The passage of the bill is recommended.

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